



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0141

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR ASSESSING
MARKET TRENDS IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/815,715

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 16, 2004

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By

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: JUN 16 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	3
		Application Number	09/815,715
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0141

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,204,821		Inui et al.	04-20-1993	
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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			Group Art Unit	3627
			Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
			Attorney Docket Number	062834-0141

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	U.S. Patent Document				
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
		PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
		Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task – Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

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		Group Art Unit	3627
Sheet 3 of 3		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0141

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		John Rendleman, "Burger King Orders AT&T Mail Service", CommunicationsWeek, 1994.	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 th Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	

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